

The credit of the first suggestion of this treatment, belongs, according to Dr. Gray, to Dr. D. M. Reese, of Albany, N. Y., who recommended it strongly in 1839, and not as is commonly supposed, to Dr. James Begbie, of Edinburg, whose paper was read in 1858.

A comparison of the arsenical with other forms of treatment led the author to the following conclusions: First he places arsenic, then sulphate of zinc, and next iron, and he thinks the best results would be obtained by a judicious combination of two or more of these remedies, with good hygiene and a sufficiency of nourishing food. In dispensary practice, of course, this last cannot always be relied on, and then the relative value of drugs is a matter of importance.

BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM AS A DIURETIC.—In the case of a gendarme suffering from albuminuria and uræmic convulsions, Dr. Solier administered bromide of potassium in doses of thirty to forty-five grains. Free diuresis was produced, between two and three quarts of urine being passed in one night, and the albumen, which was previously present in large quantities, disappeared entirely. In three other cases the bromide produced similar diuretic effects. Its diuretic action is exerted on healthy persons also. (*Centralbl. f. Chirurgie.*) (*N. Y. Med. Record.*)

TREATMENT OF HYSTERICAL REFLEX NEUROSES.—Prof. Weber recommends the protracted employment of chloroform inhalations in the treatment of obstinate and severe cases of hysterical reflex neuroses of the respiratory apparatus when the primary seat of irritation cannot be discovered and treated. He has himself proved the value of the inhalation in several cases. His first case was of a lady with a spasmodic cough that had proved rebellious to all treatment; she was cured in eight days by the chloroform inhalations, which were administered as often as the cough came on. A child with sneezing spasms was cured in three days by the chloroform. Another lady with a spasmodic cough was treated with the same remedy for fourteen days, the inhalations being administered at first four or five times, and afterwards two or three times daily. She was much improved; the cough only came on after a walk, and the inhalations were only required then. In four weeks she was discharged cured; a subsequent slight relapse was cut short by the internal administration of chloroform. In the case of a girl, fourteen years of age, who suffered from spasms of sneezing, the inhalations produced a speedy cure.—*Memorabilien* (*N. Y. Med. Record*).

QUININE DERMALGIA.—Prof. H. M. Field, of Dartmouth, in the *N. Y. Med. Record*, Nov. 30, gives the account of a case in which large anti-periodic doses of quinine produced in the cutaneous surface great heat, local œdema, especially in the face and hands, hyperæsthesia, followed in a few days by desquamation. With these symptoms were associated more or less gastric

disturbance, and on one occasion, violent vomiting, headache, and delirium. The patient preferred the original disease to that produced by the remedy.

The course followed by Dr. Field was to give the medicine in greatly lessened doses, which had the full therapeutic effect, with only a light reminder of their former unpleasant effects.

From such facts as this Dr. Field thinks we have an indication as to the physiological action of the drug. We are not, of course, to believe that it is excreted by the skin, there is no sufficient evidence pointing that way. But he holds that it does act chiefly on the sympathetic and not on the cerebro-spinal systems, and that these facts of dermalgia, urticaria, cedema, etc., are proofs that such is the case.

Its particular influence on the skin, as noted by Erasmus Wilson, and others, he deems has been thus far insufficiently studied. He is convinced that certain remedial resources of the agent in this direction still await investigation.

CANNABIS INDICA IN EPILEPSY.—Dr. Wharton Sinkler, *Phil. Med. Times*, Sept. 28, reports having used cannabis indica in two cases with advantage, one of which is given in detail: A boy, ten years of age, suffered from epilepsy which commenced as *petit mal*, occurring once or twice a day for two months, then changing to (chiefly) nocturnal *grand mal*, occurring about every two hours. He was treated with potassium bromide, and tincture of the chloride of iron, which, however, only modified his attacks, but gave no permanent relief; as soon as the medicine was stopped the attacks were more severe than ever. Then oxide of zinc was tried, but no good effect was produced. This was discontinued and cannabis indica, one-sixth grain three times a day, was ordered, with the result of first decreasing the number of his attacks to one a day for a week, and then stopping them altogether. At the date of the report there had been none for nearly three months. The child's intelligence and disposition, which had before been much injured by this disease, were also wonderfully improved.

A second case was also improved, but the full effects of the drug were not yet tested upon it.

CONIIN.—The following is the abstract of a thesis by M. Tiryakian, *Thèse de Paris*, 1878, as given in the *Revue des Sci. Méd.*, Oct. :

Coniin, conicine, or cicutine is the active principle of conium maculatum (hemlock). M. Tiryakian has undertaken the study of this alkaloid, with the collaboration of M. Bochefontaine, and under the direction of M. Vulpian. The experimental results obtained differ considerably from those of MM. Martin-Damourette and Pelvet, Christison and Gubler; the author attributes this difference to the mixture of the commercial coniin with foreign substances; it contains especially an essential oil, as yet little known, that produces in poisoning with the coniin phenomena analogous to those of curare.

Coniin, in a condition of absolute purity, acts on the cerebro-spinal centres; it is neither a muscular nor a cardiac poison. The first effect is a